

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, autism is a severely incapacitating, lifelong developmental disability, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication; and

**WHEREAS**, autism is the result of a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain; and

**WHEREAS**, autism is the third most common developmental disability, affecting more than 1,500,000 individuals nationwide and approximately 16,048 individuals in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future growth and development of persons with autism; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month advocates for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism, while educating families, professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong disability.

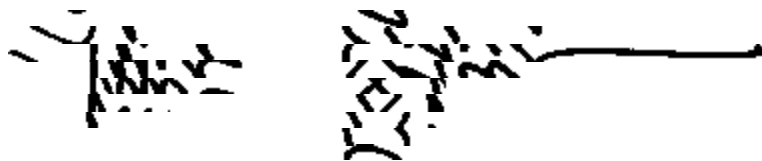
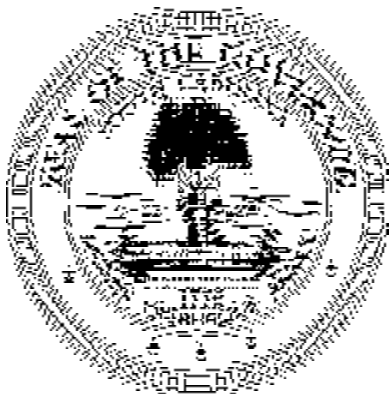
**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as

### AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

and April 27, 2003, as

### AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**